

Salma Akter

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Nursing

Good evening, members of the Appropriation committee,

My name is Salma Akter from Waterbury and currently in my fourth semester in the Nursing program at Naugatuck Valley Community College. I am hoping to graduate this May with degrees in General studies, nursing, and a certificate in visual arts. I am here today to advocate for NVCC and how I was guided toward success.

From the start, I am the first person from my family to attend college in the states. I didn't have much financial support nor guidance from my family because they weren't aware of the education system here. Therefore, I was nervous about the transition to college and tuition but my active involvement with the GEAR UP and WAVE program helped me with a smooth transition from high school to college, class schedule, advised me when I get overwhelmed with classes, and self-confidence. For those who are not familiar with the WAVE program it stands for Workforce Achievers Value Education funded by Northwest Regional Investment Board by director Catherine Awwad. Through WAVE, I was able to work on campus, support my community, and I also received checks every semesters which support me outside of college.

I am currently a student worker at the Center of Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) at NVCC. As a student worker, I got the opportunity to learn more about the programs that are available to help students succeed academically and financially, for example, NVCC foundation scholarships, job opportunities on campus, tutoring center, food pantry, and advising center. I noticed many students like myself struggle with classes, tuition, and career plans because they did not reach out for help or did not know who to turn to. One of many ways to help students with tuition is by making tuition and fees affordable. Which may benefit students succeed in class(s) and complete their degrees.

This allows students to find sustainable jobs and decrease financial hardships. I consider myself fortunate to be part of such programs and institutions where student success is the priority.

I personally utilized almost every resource provided by NVCC to succeed in classes and I also advocated to other student so they can succeed as well. With lot of hard work, I finally got into the nursing program. My mentors and advisor are actively involved with my education and when I told them about my acceptance, they were way more excited than myself. That's why I say, behind my outstanding achievements in NVCC stands every advisor from the CAPSS office, tutors from ACE center, and amazing mentors from the WAVE, GEAR UP, and supporting staffs from Naugatuck Valley Community College.

I thank all of you for listening to my story.